**U.S. Department of Justice** 



United States Attorney Eastern District of Arkansas

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## FORMER PIGGOTT BAND INSTRUCTOR SENTENCED TO 215 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGE

Little Rock - Jane W. Duke, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced today the sentencing of Tracy Meadows of Jonesboro, Arkansas. On September 28, 2007, Meadows pleaded guilty to one count of distribution of child pornography in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1). Meadows also agreed to forfeit certain computer equipment and other related items utilized during the commission of the crime. At the time of the offense, Meadows was a band instructor for the Piggott School District and the music director for First Baptist Church in Rector, Arkansas.

Today, the Honorable William R. Wilson, Jr., sentenced Meadows to 215 months incarceration, to be followed by 10 years of supervised release. Judge Wilson also ordered that additional special conditions be imposed as part of the sentence. These include that Meadows undergo mental health counseling and treatment; that he be required to register as a sex offender; that he not be allowed access to the internet during his supervised release; and that during his supervised release he have no contact with minor children without the express consent of the United States Probation Office. Meadows was immediately taken into custody after his sentence was announced.

Meadows' conviction and sentence stem from an undercover operation that began in Buffalo, New York. On January 20, 2006, an undercover officer in Buffalo engaged in an online chat session during which the undercover officer encountered a person using the identity "pervdad4yngb." This user's true identity was subsequently determined to be Tracy Meadows of Jonesboro. During the January online chat session, Meadows electronically sent twelve computer files to the undercover agent. Eleven of the files were images of minor male children involved in sexually explicit behavior. The other file was a video clip depicting a young female involved in sexually explicit behavior. A search warrant was subsequently executed at Meadows' Jonesboro residence, during which his computer was seized. A forensic examination of the computer revealed the existence of child pornography stored on it, including pictures of minors under the age of 12 and pictures of minors being subjected to sadistic and/or masochistic

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activity. Authorities discovered in excess of 3,700 images of child pornography on Meadows' computer.

Duke stated, "Any case involving child pornography or child exploitation is a serious matter. However, when the offender is also someone who holds a position of care and trust with minors, it becomes a case of the highest priority." She added, "Under no set of circumstances should someone like Mr. Meadows be working with children. We hope that this sentence serves as a deterrent to others who may be tempted to engage in similar conduct."

This case was investigated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Karen Whatley.

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